

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EB/AN:NLPZDRAL:DAP

APPROVED BY EB/AN:MHSTYLES

ARA/NC - MR. FORRESTER

CAB - MRS. COLDREN

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R 251653Z JUN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 136185

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, VE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: DAC CONSIDERATION OF US CHARTER
APPLICATION

REF: CARACAS 05597

1. IN RESPONSE REFTTEL, TRANS INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE OFFICIAL STATES TIA HAS NOT YET MADE FORMAL APPLICATION FOR CHARTER FLIGHTS, BUT EXPECTS TO DO SO WITHIN NEXT THIRTY DAYS. INFORMATION WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH APPLICATION SHOULD CLARIFY TYPE OF OPERATION CONTEMPLATED, WHICH TIA BELIEVES WELL WITHIN SCOPE OF GOV REGULATIONS.

2. FYI: TIA VICE PRESIDENT MERRITT G. SMALLEY VISITED VENEZUELA LAST MONTH IN CONNECTION WITH OPENING NEW MELIA INTERNATIONAL HOTELS, INC. (MIH) HOTEL IN PUERTO LAZ CRUZ, NEAR BARCELONA. SMALLEY STATES HE SPOKE WITH NUMBER OF BUSINESS CONTACTS THERE AND OTHER "OLD FRIENDS", AMONG THEM VIASA GENERAL MANAGER, REGARDING TIA WINTER 1974-74 PLANS.

3. TIA IS A MAJOR INVESTOR (45 PERCENT OWNERSHIP) IN MIH,
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WHICH HAS UNDERTAKEN CONSTRUCTION NEW HOTELS IN SEVERAL

PARTS OF WORLD. USUAL PLAN IS TO OBTAIN SIGNIFICANT LOCAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION. SMALLEY TALKED WITH POTENTIAL VENEZUELAN INVESTOR GROUP HEADED BY INDIVIDUAL NAMED LARES, BELIEVES IT MAY HAVE BEEN LARES OR HIS PARTNERS WHO

APPROACHED AIR TRANSPORT DIVISION, SINCE TIA HAS MADE NO RPT NO APPROACH OR APPLICATION ITSELF TO AUTHORITIES AT THIS POINT.

4. SMALLEY STATES HE ALSO PROMISED SEND LETTER TO VIASA GENERAL MANAGER OUTLINING TIA PLANS. REASON THAT NEITHER APPLICATION NOR LETTER YET SENT IS THAT TIA ONLY NOW FINALIZING CHARTER CONTRACTS. OPERATION WILL, HE SAID, ESSENTIALLY BE SIMILAR THAT CARRIED OUT LAST YEAR. END FYI.

5. INFO PARAS TWO THROUGH FOUR FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND ONLY. BELIEVE EMBASSY ALREADY MAY HAVE DETAILS RE MIH BUT IF NOT, SMALLEY STATES, LOCAL MAN CAN PROVIDE FURTHER FACTS. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONVEY INFO CONTAINED PARA ONE TO MONQUE, OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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